

brief manuscript description by Petiver? I fear that question will never be answered. Glover was a curious person, an accumulator of anything relevant to his work as the first U.S. Entomologist, and his papers at the Smithsonian Institution Archives, as well as published accounts of him, indicate that he saved every scrap of paper which he found to be of entomological significance. — DR. R. S. WILKINSON, The American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024.

*LEOPOLDIUS SIGNATUS* WIEDEMANN (DIPTERA, CONOPIDAE) IN NORTH-EAST HAMPSHIRE. — During the recent mild autumn of 1978 I had the good fortune to catch and observe numbers of this less frequently found member of the Conopidae. This all happened quite by chance when I went for a short walk along a public footpath near my home in Alton, Hampshire taking a net with me just in case but not particularly expecting to catch anything interesting, it being relatively late in the year — 7th October. Presently I saw in flight a single Conopid-type fly crossing this path at about three feet from the ground. When I had caught this specimen, on superficial examination it appeared to be a *Leopoldius* species, especially noticeable in this genus compared to other Conopidae being the much shortened proboscis. Further examination at home revealed it to be a ♀ *Leopoldius signatus* Wied. Later that day I also took a ♂ specimen flying through the shaded flowerless lower parts of an ivy covered tree, ivy being profuse and large amounts in full flower attracting many insect species at this time in the area.

Returning to this locality the next day — 8th October — I managed to secure two more females and three more males in the morning. Later, in the afternoon further examples were caught, these I checked to make sure they were all of this species before being released back into the habitat. All those I caught on this day were either flying in similar situations to the first caught specimens of the day before, or sitting at rest with wings extended, on the ivy leaves in the shade well below the actual ivy flowers near to the trunk of the supporting tree.

On the 10th October, while at Hermitage in Berkshire, on checking an isolated clump of ivy covering an old building, I caught a solitary ♀ flying around the perimeter of this ivy, despite checking this site throughout the rest of October and the beginning of November no other specimens were seen or caught at this spot.

Returning to the Alton site on the 14th October, I caught and examined nine more examples of *L. signatus*, but as they exhibited no variation I released them back into their habitat. On the 22nd October, the *Leopoldius* were still frequent, flying around and sitting on the ivy foliage again mostly in the shade, and I selected two more examples that were still in good condition for my collection. The following week, on the 28th October, most of the ivy had finished flowering and the *Leopoldius* were not easily found; I secured one more ♀ in

flight around ivy covering a hawthorn tree; and saw one other specimen in flight but out of reach.

Of all the *Leopoldius signatus* specimens observed, not one was seen to actually visit the ivy blossom, thus confirming some previous published observations (cf. Fonseca *Ent. Rec.*, 64: 186 & 187, 67: 69 & 70). However, nearly all the specimens I captured were taken flying in amongst the more shady parts of the ivy clumps that were weighing down the wind-blown hawthorns growing on this chalk down, or at rest on the ivy foliage in the shade, particularly the males in the latter case. Indeed, on one occasion I saw I saw three males of this species at the same time all sitting at rest, each on an ivy leaf a few inches from each other at about five feet above the ground, in the shaded part of the ivy growth on the host tree, despite it being a sunny day and the west facing ivy branches and leaves being well lit. Hence looking at the shaded portions of the ivy foliage appeared to give most success in finding more examples of *L. signatus*. One or two specimens were seen to sit at rest in full or partial sun, but this occurrence was not noticed frequently. It was observed however that this species would still fly on an overcast day presumably because its probable hosts (*Vespula* sp.) are also completely active on such days. The *Leopoldius* would also sit at rest on the leaves and narrow branches of the host bushes and small trees of hawthorn that supported the ivy, but none were seen to approach or make contact with others of the opposite sex, nor were they seen to come into contact with any of the numerous individuals of the *Vespula* sp. here. Two *Vespula* sp. were taken here, they were *Vespula vulgaris* L. and *V. germanica* Fab. During October and November 1978, I also visited other sites in the Alton area where ivy was profuse, but I only observed *L. signatus* to occur in this small area of about a quarter mile in length, adjacent to a modern housing estate at one end, and a chicken farm at the other just north of Alton, Hants. — S. R. MILES, 25 Northanger Close, Alton, Hants.

TRIPHOSA DUBITATA LINN. HIBERNATING IN LIMESTONE CAVES IN BRECONSHIRE. — Whilst on a caving weekend in Wales on 8.10.78, we were exploring some of the caves on the Craig y Ciliau nature reserve at Llangattock near Crickhowell, Breconshire. The caves are entered from narrow openings in the face of the limestone escarpment at approximately 1,000 ft. A short way in from the entrance my lamp lit up numerous tiny eyes, which on inspection belonged to *Triphosa dubitata* Linn. These were dotted about in small groups over the sides and roof of the cave. Numerically we estimated between 80 and 100 pairs in about 10 ft. of tunnel. After this the tunnel became very wet and unsuitable as a roost. The temperature in the cave was about 50°-55°F, and probably varies very little from this. The moths were very torpid, showing almost no movement even when removed from the wall. The two most interesting things about the specimens observed, were firstly, they were all in immaculate condition looking as